

REMARKS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as being based on an inadequate disclosure. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the carrier gas that is referred to is one that is used to dispense the scent substances. Applicant does not intend to exclude the possibility of the scent substances being entrained in a flow of air that is created when the user inhales.

In some liquid dispensers, a propellant gas is used to dispense the liquid from a container through a spray nozzle. In the case of an aerosol can, the liquid is typically atomized as it leaves the spray nozzle, but in other applications of pressurized cans, such as hornet spray, the liquid leaves the nozzle as a stream without being atomized. Other mechanisms for ejecting liquid from a container include the conventional trigger-operated spray bottle which employs a pump to extract liquid from the bottle and propel it towards the desired location. In none of those dispensers does the ambient air serve as a carrier gas, as that term is used in the present application. When the bulb of a conventional squeeze bulb perfume atomizer is squeezed, air that has previously been drawn into the bulb is expelled and serves to draw perfume from the bottle and expel the perfume through a nozzle and in this case air is used as a carrier gas for dispensing the perfume. On the other hand, the ambient air does not serve as a carrier gas for an odor-bearing molecule released by a flower. The molecules are released by the flower and are dispersed into the ambient air. When one sniffs the flower a flow of air is created and this flow entrains molecules that have been released by the flower and delivers them to the nose. Thus, it is necessary to distinguish between the case in which a carrier gas delivers scent substances to the user's nose and the case in which a carrier gas plays a part in dispensing the scent substances from their source. In accordance with the applicant's claim 1, a carrier gas does not play a part in dispensing the scent substances from their source, and this is entirely consistent with the scent substances being delivered to the user's nose by a flow of air created when the user inhales.

Claims 42, 44, 46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as being based on an inadequate disclosure with respect to

the scent substance being discharged through "electrochemical means." Applicant respectfully points out that the claims in fact refer to an exothermic reaction, not electrochemical means. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Small devices for discharging heat through an exothermic reaction are well known. For example, although therapeutic cold packs, which absorb heat due to an endothermic reaction between two reagents when a diaphragm between two compartments holding the reagents respectively is ruptured and allows the reagents to mix might be more common, therapeutic hot packs of similar structure but employing reagents that react exothermically are also available. It is necessary only that one reagent be held at the scent substance storage location and another reagent be delivered to that location. Provision of such means would be well within the skill of a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 51 has been amended in view of the examiner's rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Paragraph [0040] of the specification has been amended to provide appropriate support for claim 56.

Claims 1, 2, 37, 42, 44, 58 and 60-68 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The claims have been amended in order to overcome the rejection.

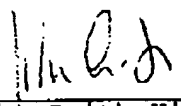
Claims 1 and 60 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 over Spector and/or Manne.

Spector discloses that heated air is forced through a pad saturated with liquid to volatilize the liquid fragrance. See column 4, lines 56-59. Manne discloses use of a blower fan to force air through a scent chamber. See paragraph 23, third sentence. Neither Spector nor Manne discloses or suggests that a scent substance is dispensed without the assistance of a carrier gas. In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable and it follows that the dependent claims 46-59 also are patentable.

Claim 60 is directed to a scent chip for use with an appliance for dispensing scents. Applicant submits that the prior art does not disclose or suggest a scent chip as defined in claim 60, comprising a carrier having a plurality of storage locations and a discharge unit operative for dispensing the scent substances from the storage

locations. Therefore, claim 60 is patentable and it follows that the dependent claims 61-68 also are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,

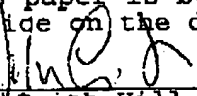
  
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John Smith-Hill  
Reg. No. 27,730

SMITH-HILL & BEDELL, P.C.  
12670 NW Barnes Road, Suite 104  
Portland, Oregon 97229

Tel. (503) 574-3100  
Fax (503) 574-3197  
Docket: ZIP 2382

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